



**Consultation on Human Development Analysis and Measurement:
Experiences from States and
5th National Steering Committee (NSC) Meeting, HDBI Project
20-21 December 2013, Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu**

Subject: Summary Record of the Consultation on Human Development Analysis and Measurement, and the 5th NSC Meeting, HDBI Project, held on 20-21 December 2013 at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu

The Consultation on Human Development Analysis and Measurement was held under the Chairmanship of Mr. T.K. Pandey, Joint Secretary, (State Plans) and National Project Director (NPD), on 20-21 December 2013 in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, to share State experiences of engaging in work on Human Development (HD). Organised by the Planning Commission and UNDP under the Human Development: Towards Bridging Inequalities (HDBI) project, the aim of this Consultation was to enable States to share their experiences of working on HD and learn from each other. The Consultation was attended by participants not only from partner States under the HDBI project, but also from other States and Union Territories and research institutions. The list of participants is at Annexure I.

INAUGURAL SESSION

2. **Introduction:** The Project Manager welcomed all participants and observed that the participation included representation from 20 States and Union Territories. She mentioned that this Consultation was conducted in response to the interest expressed by States in sharing and learning from each other's experiences of preparing Human Development Reports (HDRs) and engaging in other HD-related activities at the State, district and block levels. She welcomed the panelists for the inaugural session to the event: Madam Santha Sheela Nair, Vice Chairperson, State Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu; Mr. Tuhin k Pandey, Joint Secretary (State Plans), Planning Commission, Government of India, and NPD of the HDBI Project; and Ms. Sumeeta Banerji, Assistant Country Director (ACD) and Head, Governance Unit, UNDP India. She then invited the NPD to deliver the welcome remarks.

3. **Welcome address:** Shri. Tuhin Pandey, {Joint Secretary (State Plans), Planning Commission, Government of India, and NPD of the HDBI Project} greeted all participants and welcomed Smt. Santha Sheela Nair to the Consultation. He appreciated the constant support and cooperation of the ACD, UNDP India and Programme Analyst, Governance unit, UNDP India, on the HDBI project. Noting that the HDBI project is an extremely important intervention, despite not having a large financial contribution, he mentioned that it is the third in the series of partnerships between the Planning Commission and UNDP on Human Development spanning over a decade. These projects have synergized the energies prevalent across the States. The HDBI project is a State driven project, and provides a platform to share experiences, technical expertise and work in cooperation. This project focuses on bridging inequalities across social groups, regions, areas of residence etc. by providing input for policy advocacy, programme design and resource allocation.

4. Further, NPD mentioned that the consultation included a broader participation, going beyond the geographic mandate of the HDBI project mainly because the Consultation focuses on broader issues of data availability and the need to prepare an action plan for developing relevant and reliable data in new areas with necessary periodicity. He suggested that Planning Departments across the States & UTs could be the link between the Planning Commission with the State administration and add their efforts towards building robust data systems. Overall, the HDBI project aims to create a community of practitioners in every State & UT by building capacities to raise the demand and supply for HD analysis and services.

5. **Opening address:** Ms. Sumeeta Banerji, ACD, UNDP welcomed all panelists and participants to the Consultation on Human Development Analysis and Measurement. She observed that the Consultation covered three different but inter-connected issues of HD- reporting at State level through the HDRs, mechanisms for monitoring national Plan targets and data gaps, and issues of reporting on MDGs. India is world leader in HD reporting, as an initiator, incubator and implementer of HD analysis and reporting. In the last 18yrs, India has prepared 72 HDRs from the national level down to the district level. It is this decentralized reporting that makes our reporting very unique- the first State HDR was made in India. India has led the way in bringing HD analysis to influence planning and budgeting. Even the Union Finance Minister, in the Budget speech mentioned that the HDI could be used as one of the factors in identifying backward areas. The International Centre for Human Development (IC4HD) has been set-up in India as a centre of international excellence in HD. Under the HDBI project, the attempt is to focus on inequalities and several states are making welcome initiatives to strengthen our larger goals beyond human development reporting and analysis. In order to incentivize, motivate and promote HD reporting, the Human Development Awards have been instituted in 2012.

6. In addition, she urged States governments to think further on the follow-up to the preparation of an HDR, as states invest much time, effort and human resources in the preparation of the HDRs and sound follow up in terms of informing budgets and plans would consolidate the impact of this work. The HDI could be used to inform financial allocations by engaging closely with planning departments and finance commissions and specific research and reporting. She flagged the issue of data availability as it is important to measure the impact of government schemes and programmes to ensure that resources are being used efficiently. She mentioned that at a recent global round table, much attention was placed on the need to link national Plan targets, state Plan targets, district Plans, indicators used to measure impact, and data availability on these indicators. The HDBI project, according to her provides a good platform from which to look into these issues. Also, she mentioned that since the MDGs overlap considerably with HD indicators and Plan targets and the MDG deadline of 2015 is approaching, it is important to measure our progress towards achieving them. She concluded by thanking the Planning Commission for its support, and particularly JS State Plans & NPD (HDBI project) for his strong support on the HDBI project, as well as the participants who joined the Consultation.

7. **Keynote address:** The Vice Chairperson, State Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu, opened the keynote address by welcoming everyone to Mahabalipuram. She praised the HD concept as a good alternative to income-based assessments of human progress, and mentioned that the HDI has undergone much refinement since it was originally conceived, to develop more specific indices such as the Gender Development Index (GDI), Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI). The HDRs look at a more pluralistic development agenda and also a sound framework for the allocation of resources. Both capital and capabilities need to be built up to this end. Agreeing with Amartya Sen's comment that there is much to celebrate in what we have achieved but we also have to be alive to ways of improving the assessment of old adversities and recognizing and responding to new threats that endanger human wellbeing and freedom, she said that therefore the HD concept will continue to remain dynamic and has to keep on evolving.

8. She flagged the issue of inadequate and unreliable data as one of the greatest challenges we face, which leads to distorted plans and results lopsided development. Data collection, analysis and interpretation are therefore of critical importance. However, there is a huge administrative challenge in the states in getting all functionaries at various level of Government to contribute to data. Also, there is a conflict of interest between the need to project reality and the desire for positive self-projection by Government's that needs to be overcome to ensure the collection of true data which can give us correct indicators. Here an interface between NGOs, civil society and the Government is necessary. Data collection, analysis and reporting has to be depoliticized this so that

it does not become arsenal for political use and abuse. The UNDP's PAHELI concept is commendable in this regard. She gave the example of Institution for Financial Management and Research (IFMR) in Tamil Nadu which is doing a HD analysis based on household level data.

9. Regarding Tamil Nadu's experience with HDRs, she said a State HDR was prepared in 2003, and since then 8 district HDRs have been prepared and circulated. In 2013, Tamil Nadu is again preparing an SHDR. Since 2003 the State has had a lot of experience of correlating the HD reports with planning exercises and converting the HDI and recommendations into monitorable targets (related to IMR, MMR etc for example) and putting this into the Plan process. In 2013 the State hopes to take this much further. Tamil Nadu has devised a Vision 2023 document, released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, which contains HD Goals that the State would like to achieve by 2023. The 2013 State HDR of Tamil Nadu will attempt to assess the extent to which these goals have been met and what remains to be done. Along with this, the State Planning Commission and Government of Tamil Nadu have created a State Balanced Growth Fund to cover regional imbalances. 100 blocks have been identified as being most backward in the State through HD indices and other development indices and the State HDR 2013 in Tamil Nadu is looking at the theme of inclusive growth and the correction of regional imbalances.

10. She also drew attention to alternative indices such as the Bhutan Happiness Index as a great concept that understands that there is more to HD figures than statistics and deals with a more spiritual quotient. Therefore, it is important to understand that no one size fits all and the challenge is to work together and come to conclusions.

11. Importantly, she stressed that permanent institutional mechanisms must be created to look at HD in every state. Otherwise cumulative institutional memory is lost between HDRs which are prepared after long intervals of time. A continuous input in all planning and development processes should be encouraged.

12. Additionally, she mentioned that as of today, nothing is incentivizing State governments to take up HD reporting as a measure that can generate some financial resources for them also. If States can be encouraged through a mechanism of incentives through the devolution of funds, it will make HD a priority area.

13. Furthermore, she spoke about the need to sensitize the political classes about the political mileage that they can acquire by talking in terms of HD indices and how they have improved rather than projects and per capita income generated. This message needs to be taken to local bodies- municipalities and panchayats. Also, HD reporting and indices should be part of the civil services curriculum as public officers should see the wellbeing approach as central to everything they do. Elected representatives should be made part of consultations and workshops on HD so that it becomes part of political discourse. She closed by thanking the Planning Commission, especially JS, State Plans & NPD (HDBI project) and the UNDP for the opportunity to address the gathering.

14. The Project Manager thanked the Vice Chairperson, State Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu and with permission of the Chair initiated a round of introductions of the participants.

15. Following the Inaugural session, the Consultation on HD analysis and measurement was initiated.

16. **Introduction:** The Moderator, Dr. Preet Rustagi, Professor & Joint Director, Institute Human Development (IHD), introduced the session and invited representatives from the Governments of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu to present on the activities undertaken and the indices developed in the State.

17. **Karnataka HDR- Inequalities and innovative Indices:** Dr. Shashidhar in his presentation discussed the trajectory of DHDR preparation in Karnataka, along with basic concerns, challenges and limitations, and institutional framework in the pre-preparatory stage, the guidelines, quality monitoring, human resources and methodology in the preparatory stage, and the utility of DHDRs in the post-preparatory stage. Dr. Madheswaran provided an overview of the State Level Steering Committee (SLSC), expert comments received, chapterisation, approach and roadmap of the Karnataka State HDR. The Moderator thanked them for their detailed presentations and requested the team from Maharashtra to present next.

18. **Maharashtra HDR- Measuring inequalities at the block level:** The Government of Maharashtra was represented by Dr. Minal Naravane from YASHADA and Mr. Amol Khandare from the Planning Department, Government of Maharashtra. After providing an overview of the indicators used in the calculation of HDI for the Maharashtra State HDR 2012, they discussed the need for HD reporting at the block level. Since data constraints did not permit such reporting, they prepared a composite index using available data. The presentation covered a detailed discussion of indicators used, methodology and findings. They also presented information on a study of block level household monthly per capita consumption expenditure. The Moderator thanked the team for their crisp presentation and sharing interesting information on trying to secure and present block-level data. She then welcomed the Tamil Nadu team for their presentation.

19. **Tamil Nadu HDR- Promoting human development in backward regions:** The Government of Tamil Nadu was represented by Ms. Namagiri, from the State Planning Commission. She described the State's past experience of HD reporting at the State and District levels, along with plans for the 2013 Tamil Nadu State HDR. Related indices such as the MPI, Child Development Index (CDI), Food Security Index (FSI) etc. which will be included in this report were discussed. She also presented Tamil Nadu's plans for preparing DHDRs covering all 31 districts, along with processes and timelines involved. Also discussed was the Vision 2023 document, and the State Backward Areas Growth Fund. The presentation also included a data update on several key indicators of development.

20. **Discussion:** The Moderator opened the house for discussions with queries regarding the construction of indices such as MPI and FSI as put forth by Tamil Nadu. The open discussion centred around issues such as- the need for a strong conceptual rationale to support each new index; the value of simplicity in the construction and measurement of indices; the importance of sharing methodologies for collective learning; the validity and use of block level indices as opposed to block level indicators when it comes to planning for action; the need to have robust methodologies to withstand political scrutiny; a macro-level plan for integrated sub-State level HDRs with the State-level HDR in order to address overall development objectives; assessing the value of an index and the value of component indicators by the purpose the information is being used for- indices are useful to give an overview, but planning has to be done using indicators; the need to develop disaggregated data for various indicators such as IMR, MMR; the importance of assessing ways by which the newly emergent indices can be made as comparable as the HDI so that they are applicable across States etc. The Moderator concluded the session by emphasizing that in addition to being concerned with the construction of indices, it should be kept in mind that these indices should ultimately point out where the state is lacking and where efforts should be directed in order to achieve the central goal of human development for each and every individual.

SESSION 1b: PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

21. **Introduction:** The Moderator, Prof. M.N. Suryanarayana, from the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) invited the representatives from the Governments of Assam and Delhi to present on the findings of the perception surveys conducted in the State.

22. **Assam- Wellbeing index:** Dr. Joydeep Baruah from the Omeo Kumar Das Institute for Social Change and Development (OKDISCD) presented on behalf of the Government of Assam. His presentation included an overview of the State HDR preparation; including challenges faced, survey design, sample size, issues of quality and standardization, participation and innovation. Importantly, he described the concept of the wellbeing index that was being developed in Assam as part of the new State HDR, along with domains and indicators. The Moderator thanked him for his presentation and requested the presentation by the Government of Delhi to be made.

23. **Delhi- Public perception survey:** Dr. Preet Rustagi from the Institute of Human Development made the presentation on the Delhi State HDR on behalf of the Government of Delhi. The innovative aspect of this HDR was that it included a perception survey. She discussed the process, challenges, thematic coverage, as well as the details involved in planning, executing and analyzing results from a public perception survey in a representative sample of over 8000 households in Delhi. She also presented the nuances of designing the survey tool itself.

24. **Discussion:** The Moderator opened the floor for discussion on the presentations made. The discussion included deliberations on how differences between the results of the quantitative survey and people's perceptions will be accommodated in the Assam State HDR; accounting for differences between what is objectively measures and subjectively experienced; using caution in quantifying experiences on the ground because it can sometimes create a distance from the real problem-overemphasis on quantification must be avoided when there is a serious problem of basic data itself; use of the Socio Economic Caste Census to fill specific data gaps, capturing issues of not just availability of services but use and quality of services etc. After the discussions, the Moderator thanked both speakers for their intellectually stimulating presentations and all participants for their inputs in the discussion.

SESSION 1c: THEMATIC HDRs

25. **Introduction:** This session was moderated by Mr. Tuhin Pandey, Joint Secretary (State Plans), Planning Commission, Government of India and National Project Director, HDBI Project. He introduced the session and requested the representatives from Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Gujarat to present on the activities proposed under their thematic HDR. He further, invited the Governments of Odisha and Uttarakhand to present on the proposed activities in the state.

26. **Himachal Pradesh:** The representative from Himachal Pradesh said that the State has 12 districts and 72 blocks, of which 2 districts are tribal districts. Himachal Pradesh produced its first State HDR in 2002, and since then 3 District HDRs have been produced. The State is now in the process of preparing a second State HDR, alongside which four studies have also been identified, on the topics of- HD for inclusive and sustainable green growth in Himachal Pradesh, a study that follows a life cycle approach to understand the impact of environmental changes and institutionalize processes to achieve environmental sustainability with HD; a study to map the sex ratio in the 0-6year age category and study causes of decline in last two decades; a study of the financial allocation to and expenditures by various departments directly engaged in HD in Himachal Pradesh and to project their financial requirements to meet HD targets set by the State for itself; and finally, a study on the socio-economic status of the nomadic Gujjars, which is recognized as a Scheduled Tribe. Terms of Reference (ToRs) for these studies will be finalized after 21st January 2014, and the

Request for Proposals (RFPs) will be floated to secure appropriate expertise to carry out these studies. The Moderator then invited the State of Nagaland to make their presentation.

27. **Nagaland:** The representative from Nagaland mentioned that the first Nagaland State HDR in 2004 was the first academic publication of any great measure in Nagaland. In 2011, the State released three district HDRs, and these districts were selected on the basis of development apriori-Kohima, Phek and Mon. In April 2013 the State has restarted the exercise for the other 8 districts, taking into account the learnings from the previous DHDRs pertaining to multiplicity of data sources, reliability of data, timely submission of drafts, statistical support and supervision by experts, etc. The DHDRs had one unique feature- a chapter titled 'voices of the people' included inputs received from people belonging to different walks of life in seminars conducted at divisional and sub-divisional levels. These views were incorporated in the report even if they different from official data. The same chapter plan is being retained in the new DHDRs for the sake of consistency and comparability. It has been decided to use expertise and talent from within the state/district and lead authors have been identified for each district. Chapters have been received and the DHDRs are slated to be released on 26th January 2014. These chapters contain recommendations which can be used for planning and allocation purposes. The Moderator thanked the representative for his presentation and invited the State of Gujarat to make their presentation.

28. **Gujarat:** The representative from the Government of Gujarat highlighted the process of HDR preparation in Gujarat along with the methodology followed. The State Government prepared Vision 2010 in the year 2000, which identified various social sector goals. Over the years, financial outlays for the social sector have increased. The 2004 Gujarat State HDR covered issues of education, health, living standards, environment, vulnerability and gender and provided a broad policy perspective. In the follow-up to this report, a lot of programmes were initiated to improve the State HDI, along with other activities such as capacity building of Government officials, improvement of the statistical system, allied research studies, engendering of State Plans, and preparation of District HDRs. 14 Districts have now been selected for HDR preparation and many additional activities are being undertaken such as preparation of a vision document, HD atlas, preparation of a second State HDR, and other publications related to HD. The representative also presented the methodology to be followed for the State and District HDRs in Gujarat. The Moderator thanked her for the presentation and requested the representative from Odisha to address the group.

29. **Odisha:** The representative from the Government of Odisha mentioned that the State is engaging in capacity building of its officials, and had created a society called the Poverty and Human Development Monitoring Agency. The first State HDR was prepared in 2004. Four District HDRs have been published since then and the fifth one is ready as well. Now the State is planning to develop HDRs for all thirty districts. There will be two themes for these reports- one is focusing on inequalities as Odisha witnesses a lot of social and regional inequalities, and the other is focused on Scheduled Tribes as requested by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Moderator request the State of Uttarakhand to make their presentation.

30. **Uttarakhand:** The representative from the Government of Uttarakhand mentioned that the State is not currently engaged in the preparation of any HDR. However, the State has released two reports in the past, one is the Uttarakhand Development Report developed by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) with support from the Planning Commission, Government of India and the other report is the Uttarakhand Economic Assessment. The State is now interested to prepare and HDR and has already identified approximately twenty areas of concern, of which it has decided to focus on the three areas of natural disasters, disparities and environmental concerns. The Government of Uttarakhand will send a proposal to the Planning Commission shortly. The Moderator thanked him for his presentation and invited comments from the floor.

31. **Discussion:** Issues that came up in the open discussion included the value of diversity in the thematic focus of HDRs across regions; requirement of data on programme impact and on public expenditure; and a detailed explanation of new experiments to enhance accountability that are being undertaken in the Government of India. After the discussions, the Moderator thanked all participants and requested the Project Manager to present an overview of the HDBI project.

OVERVIEW OF THE HDBI PROJECT

32. **HDBI project:** The Project Manager introduced the HDBI project as the third in a series of partnership on HD between the Planning Commission and UNDP, arising from a need for continued focus on HD. The project is action-oriented, in that it aims to strengthen linkages between policy action emerging from human development analysis and programme interventions. The strategy is to evolve policy solutions to address persistent issues of exclusion at all levels, address statistical gaps and provide an enabling framework to achieve HD goals. The total project budget is USD 2.7million, and the geographical scope of the project covers 15 States. At present the project is in the implementation mode in Assam, Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The proposals from Nagaland and Odisha have recently been approved and the proposals from Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan are currently under consideration. The project is based on a model of Government ownership, of the Planning Commission at the National level and the State Governments at the State levels. It follows a participatory approach with stakeholder consultations and a thrust on issues of inequality, particularly gender and social inequalities. Specific initiatives ongoing and envisioned under the project include the preparation of State and District HDRs, thematic research papers, advocacy material, capacity building and knowledge sharing initiatives, an HD Atlas, a Bundelkhand HDR, a Tribal HDR, a resource book on Good Practices in HD, a study on Environment Sustainability and HD etc. The Planning Commission is the main implementing partner, but other Ministries at the national level and line departments in the States are considered to be important stakeholders in the project. The Project Manager provided an overview of the challenges faced in the course of project implementation and also the plans for the next year, i.e. 2014. She also encouraged those present to visit the project webpage on the Planning Commission website, which is being developed as an interactive portal to engage all stakeholders in information exchange so as to enhance learning and inform action.

SESSION 2: STATUS OF AVAILABILITY OF DATA FOR MONITORING XII FIVE YEAR PLAN TARGETS

33. **Introduction:** This session was Moderated by the Joint Secretary (State Plans), Planning Commission and NPD, HDBI Project, Mr. Tuhin Pandey. Also present on the dais in the capacity of the observer was Mr. Dinesh Kapila from the Planning Commission. The Moderator introduced the session to the participants, explaining that in the past year, the HDBI project had contracted the services of a Consultant, Mr. G.D. Sharma, to undertake an assessment of the status of data availability on the indicators for the monitorable targets mentioned in the XI Five Year Plan of the Government of India. This assessment has been published and circulated, and a fresh assessment has been made along similar lines for the XII Five Year Plan. He then invited Mr. G.D. Sharma to present his findings in the context of the XII Five Year Plan.

34. **Presentation:** Mr. G.D. Sharma introduced the background and scope of his paper along with the sources of information he used, and proceeded to discuss his main findings by each indicator. After providing a brief account by presenting a matrix of indicators, he discussed his specific observations and recommendations regarding the availability of reliable data on specific indicators, the periodicity of updation and responsibility for data collection and maintenance.

35. **Discussion:** The Moderator then invited the Observer to place his observations before the group. The Observer appreciated the recommendations as they point to a broad action plan which

could be taken forward. He added a specific suggestion of appointing nodal officers in the concerned ministries and departments who should be accountable and responsible for making data available on the indicators for the monitorable targets at least. State Governments should also gear their machinery towards generating timely and reliable data for proper monitoring of the targets in the XII Plan. The open discussion that followed included conversations over- the need for establishing a baseline if changes are to be studied at the end of the five year Plan period; the importance of making arrangements for generating data that is disaggregated by social and gender groups; avoiding duplication of data generation efforts by different Ministries/departments; deciding appropriate authorities for the collection and management of specific data; the rationale behind merging or changing monitorable indicators; and the need to ensure that planners set only those targets for which data is available so they can be monitored. With the end of this session, the first day of the Consultation was closed.

SESSION 3: MDG REPORTING

36. **Introduction:** The second day opened with a session on data and reporting related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in India. The Project Manager introduced the session, observing that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has been monitoring and reporting India's progress towards achieving the MDGs at the National and State levels, but the Ministry is now keen that States themselves generate and own data at the State level as well as district levels. She welcomed Mr. S. Maitra, Deputy Director General, MoSPI to make his presentation and introduced Mr. Tuhin Pandey, Joint Secretary (State Plans), Planning Commission, Government of India, and NPD, HDBI Project as the Moderator, and Dr. R.V. Singh from the Government of Odisha, Mr. Dinesh Kapila and Dr. Sharad Pant from the Planning Commission, Government of India as panelists.

37. **Presentation:** In his presentation, the DDG, MoSPI discussed the history behind the MDGs along with their features, the goals and targets relevant to India, along with the status of achievement of each target and potential achievement by the deadline of 2015. He then discussed guidelines for States to track achievement on the MDG targets, criteria to be used for selecting indicators, the methodology for statistical tracking and data sources by indicator.

38. **Discussion:** Discussions during and after the presentation raised issues surrounding the use of specific data sources for particular types of data; queries regarding the calculation of gross and net enrolment ratios; methodologies for the estimation of poverty, and methods by which data generation on the MDG targets can be catalyzed in the States.

39. The Moderator then invited all States to present the status of their work on MDG reporting:

- a. **Andhra Pradesh:** The representatives shared that an MoU has been signed between the State Planning Department, UNICEF and the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), with the former two institutions funding the initiative, and CESS coordinating the initiative. Work has begun and indicators are being identified. CESS is due to submit the draft MDG report by 28 February 2014.
- b. **Karnataka:** The State has presented a Vision document which contains most of the targets. In the light of the presentation made, the work will be revised and nodal officers will be appointed to carry it through- one from the Planning Department and the other from the Statistical Department. Additionally, modernization of data collection methods is underway under the Indian Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP) and will be taken further in consultation with the Planning Commission and MoSPI.

- c. Uttar Pradesh: The Planning Commission has established a Human Resource Directorate that deals with the HDR. It is not clear who is dealing with MDG tracking and reporting, however, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES) is tracking some of the indicators. The representative mentioned that upon his return to Uttar Pradesh, he will discuss the possibility of appointing a nodal officer for the purpose of regular MDG reporting, with senior officials.
- d. Maharashtra: The representative from Maharashtra mentioned that upon his return to the State, he would discuss the appointment of a nodal officer to coordinate the process of MDG reporting with the Director, DES and Chief Secretary, Planning Department, and also initiate the preparation of a roadmap for regular MDG reporting in the State, using local expertise.
- e. Chhattisgarh: The representative from Chhattisgarh shared that the work of MDG reporting was entrusted to the Planning Department and Department of Panchayati Raj Institutions. He undertook to discuss this matter with the Chief Secretary, Planning Department, upon his return to the State and also explore ways of collaborating with the DES on this initiative so that it will gain positive momentum.
- f. Gujarat: The representative confirmed receipt of letters and guidelines from the Planning Commission and MoSPI on MDG reporting. She reported that a meeting had been conducted under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, with concerned Secretaries from all departments invited to attend. The meeting was coordinated by the Secretary, Planning Department. Gujarat Social Infrastructure Development Board Society (GSIDBS) has been appointed as the nodal institution and implementing agency. UNICEF has submitted a proposal for this work as well but it is still unclear whether it will be carried out by the UNICEF or an arm of the Government of Gujarat itself.
- g. Dadra and Nagar Haveli: The representative confirmed having received the Planning Commission's letter on MDG reporting one month back, and said that it is under process. As suggested at this Consultation, a committee will be formed, and he undertook to coordinate with the Planning Department and send the exact details of committee members.
- h. Puducherry: The representative said that a steering committee will be constituted shortly with all line departments as members. He also shared that the work had already begun with efforts to collect some of the information pertaining to the eight goals.
- i. Assam: A workshop will be held in January 2014 to ascertain the status of the MDGs. Committee members have not yet been identified, but this will be done in another ten days. The representative undertook to send the information to the Planning Commission.
- j. Tamil Nadu: The communication from the Planning Commission has been received by the Principal Secretary and forwarded to the State Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has started the process in an indirect fashion even prior to this communication through the State Balanced Growth Fund which addresses the 100 most backward districts. 30 indicators have been formally recorded in respect to the 100 blocks. They are yet to give it shape in the form of an MDG report.
- k. Arunachal Pradesh: The State does not have a nodal officer or department for MDG reporting. The representative will speak to concerned officers upon his return for initiating the work and related appointments.
- l. Rajasthan: The letter on MDG reporting from the Planning Commission has been received, and in response, a stakeholders' workshop has been scheduled for January 2014 as the first step.

Additionally, a list of indicators on which data is to be collected has been sent to all departments. The DES will coordinate the preparation of this Report.

- m. Nagaland: The State is in the process of formally launching the 8 District HDR and therefore work on MDG reporting has not begun. Since the constitutive elements are overlapping to some extent, MDG reporting will also be taken up, keeping in mind suggestions received at this Consultation. The representative undertook to inform the Officer on Special Duty (OSD), Planning Department regarding this.
- n. Andaman and Nicobar Islands: The letter from the Planning Commission has been received. The DES has been made the nodal institution. The representative undertook to initiate the constitution of a committee to oversee the work upon his return.
- o. Himachal Pradesh: The Planning Department has been assigned the task of preparing the MDG report for the State. Work has not started as yet, but the representative undertook to look into this upon his return.
- p. Bihar: The letter from the Planning Commission has been received and forwarded to all concerned departments. Mission Manav Vikas which has been constituted by the State Government is steering the process. The process of organizing a stakeholder meeting is in process.
- q. Goa: The letter from the Planning Commission has not been received. The MDG report will be prepared in three to four months. No steering committee is required, but Secretaries of all departments will approve the report before it is published.
- r. Odisha: The letter from the Planning Commission has been received and the first meeting has been held under the Chairmanship of the Development Commissioner. The task has been assigned to the Poverty and Human Development Monitoring Agency in association with the DES. The process has already begun and it is hoped that the report will be published in the first half of the year. He requested the Planning Commission and MoSPI to render help in harmonizing baselines across States.

40. The Moderator requested all participants to share the details of the nodal officers, as and when appointed in their States, in order to help create a community to share information between States and with the Government of India. He also cautioned the States from diluting the MDG targets and indicators by broadening the scope very much. Additionally, the DDG, MoSPI requested States to present their achievements vis-à-vis State targets and vis-à-vis National targets. The Moderator concluded the session by suggesting June 2014 as a target for completing the process of MDG reporting. He flagged it as an important initiative as MDGs are a subset of wider human development reporting.

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL WORK PLAN TO NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

41. The NPD, HDBI project invited the Project Manager to present the proposed Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2014 to the National Steering Committee comprising of representatives from project partner States. He invited the partner States as well as States that were not currently a part of the HDBI project to also be present and share their views at the end of the presentation, after which if all were in agreement, the proposed AWP 2014 could receive their endorsement for finalization.

42. **HDBI project progress in 2013**: The Project Manager reviewed the progress of the HDBI project in 2013. The NSC was informed that the total expenditure under AWP 2013 was 84%, with

actual expenditure being INR 2,26,244 and the balance amount being INR 43,35,732. Utilisation is expect to be 100% by the end of December 2014.

- a. Activity 1- State/District/Regional/Thematic HDRs: The Bihar and Maharashtra HDRs are yet to be released- this should be done in 2014. A key achievement under the project was that the Delhi HDR was released in 2013. For the Bundelkhand HDR, field work and data collection have been undertaken in all 13 districts of the region and a stakeholder consultation will be conducted in early 2014. This has not been done until now due to election related sensitivities. For the Tribal HDR, the HDBI project team working with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The RFPs are to be advertised for the seven linear papers to be presented under this as well as for the overall Tribal HDR itself.
- b. Activity 2- Strengthening of Statistical Data Systems: The paper assessing the availability of data on the monitorable targets in the XI Five Year Plan has been published and circulated, and a similar paper on the XII Five Year Plan is about to be finalized.
- c. Activity 3- Human Development Advocacy: For the resource book on Good Practices, 37 case studies were received from the States of which 16 were shortlisted in consultation with the Planning Commission, UNDP and the hired agency. Other cases have also been identified by the agency and field visits are currently underway for verification and validation of all 43 cases for inclusion. The Consultation on Human Development Analysis and Measurement has just been completed. The project webpage should be launched by mid-2014.
- d. Activity 4- Capacity Building for Undertaking HD Analysis: A training workshop on HD and procurement of services was conducted at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in December 2013 and a training on HD indices was also conducted previously in April 2013 by Milorad Kovacevic, the Chief Statistician, UNDP HDRO.

43. **HDBI project AWP 2014**: The Project Manager then presented the proposed AWP 2014. She mentioned that the some of the activities from 2013 will roll into 2014 and some new activities will be initiated.

- a. Activity 1- State/District/Regional/Thematic HDRs: The focus will be on completion and release of HDRs, specifically Bihar and Maharashtra which is pending for long, and for the states of Assam, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu which have begun in this project cycle. Proposals are expected from a few States in 2014. The release of the Bundelkhand HDR and the preparation of linear papers for the Tribal HDR are slated for 2014.
- b. Activity 2- Strengthening of Statistical Data Systems: A framework for monitoring plan targets will be developed after discussions with line ministries on how to fill data gaps. States are requested to inform the Project Management Unit (PMU) if there are any particular studies or other activities they would like to initiate towards strengthening statistical systems so that these can be built into the AWP 2014.
- c. Activity 3- Human Development Advocacy: A draft of the HD Atlas is expected to be prepared in 2014. The resource book on Good Practices is expected to be released in the course of the year. Also, the project webpage is expected to be made fully functional. More initiatives are welcome.
- d. Activity 4- Capacity Building for Undertaking HD Analysis: The training on HD indices and procurement will be continued in 2014. Strengthening capacities of State Government on HD programme management can be provided through the project on request by the States.

44. **AWP 2014 budget**: The total proposed budget for AWP 2014 was calculated to be INR 3.29 crores. The Project Manager also requested the States to mention any activities that they would like to be supported under the HDBI project.

45. **Discussions and action points:** The NSC was then requested to provide their views on the proposed AWP 2014.

a. Working with training institutions, colleges and universities: The ACD, UNDP India, mentioned the need for curriculum and capacity development for State Universities and District Colleges, and also possibly with State training institutions. Perhaps a two day session could be added under 'Activity 4- Capacity Building', with one day dedicated to building capacities of State training institutions and the other day for Universities on developing a curriculum for HD. This could be done in early 2014. Representative from the Government of Karnataka reported that the State has established the Karnataka Evaluation Authority (KEA), which is meant for the capacity building of line department officials, particularly for RFPs. Nearly 3-4 such training programmes have been completed by them already. Regarding HD curriculum development, he mentioned that it might be useful to push the idea through the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Action point: *Include Curriculum development into the AWP 2014.*

b. NSCs and Consultations in future: Apart from including the capacity development trainings, the Project Manager mentioned that two NSCs and two national level consultations are being planned for 2014. *The NPD suggested that going forward, the NSC be combined with a Consultation such as the present one.* The NPD also suggested that States organize internal meetings to apprise departments and officials on the activities undertaken under the project. He placed emphasis on the creation on an institutionalized framework within the States to carry out the work on HD measuring, analysis, reporting, capacity building and advocacy. States like Karnataka and Odisha have covered much ground with dedicated institutions and resources.

c. Other HD related activities: The Project Manager also informed the NSC that an RFP for a study on environment sustainability and HD has been floated and is in the process of finalisation. Additionally, she requested the States to initiate other activities over and above HDR preparation. State Level Project Steering Committees need to be created in States where this has not already been done. The NPD supported this, saying that such committees provide not only visibility but also momentum to activities in the States.

Action points: *States to set up State Level Project Steering Committees at the earliest if not yet done.*

d. Innovative communication: The NPD flagged the need to demystify HDRs, produce bilingual reports (in English and the vernacular language of the State), developing flyers containing evidence and policy recommendations in simple words, and preparing advocacy material in a manner that is suitable to the intended stakeholder group (legislators/general public etc). He urged the States to take HD reporting to the next level in 2014, by taking evidence and messages to wider audiences.

Action point: *Communication materials like fliers, handouts, brochures to be prepared on 'de-mystifying HD' and related activities being undertaken at national, state and local levels. These could be produced in both English and vernacular languages.*

e. Developing HD programme management skills: The NPD mentioned that Skills in the areas of programme management, outsourcing work, procurement of expertise, budgeting etc should be followed. Skills in these areas should be built through trainings etc. The project seeks to address these gaps.

Action point: *Training programme on procurement of services to roll out in 2014.*

f. Instituting policy papers: The NPD mentioned it is important to gear the evidence emerging from the HD reports towards policy formulation by initiating the preparation of policy papers in collaboration with experts.

Action points: *Study on linkages between HDR preparation and policy formulation to be initiated.*

g. Contribution to the XIV Finance Commission: The ACD, UNDP India suggested that the national level work plan include studies linking HD indicators to budgetary allocations. This suggestion was based on a recent discussion with the XIV Finance Commission.

Action points: *Study on linkages between HD indicators to budgetary allocations to be initiated.*

h. Creating working groups for specific indices developed by States: The ACD, UNDP India, also suggested that as States are developing specific indices, these can be taken up in consultation with subject-area experts in order to come up with an agreed methodology for computation.

Action point: *Series of Consultations on the indices being developed by the States to be organised in 2014.*

i. Including targets in the State Results Framework Document (RFDs): The ACD, UNDP India, requested States to include specific MDG or HDI targets as they felt necessary in their RFDs.

j. Development Support Services (DSS): The ACD, UNDP India, informed the gathering that the UNDP is now offering DSS, wherein Ministries or Government departments can opt to take the UNDP's support to procure goods, institutional support services, consulting services, recruitments, etc for them at a small management fee. The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), the Government of West Bengal, and the Government of Haryana are already utilizing these services. The NPD advised the group to use caution in providing or using DSS, as the States and departments should develop their own capacities for procurement. The ACD, UNDP India, clarified that the initial support under DSS is to provide the services, but the long term objective is to build capacity for procurement in the Government departments.

k. Preparing a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): A participant suggested that a list of FAQs related to HDR preparation be developed and shared on the HDBI project website for wider reference.

Action point: *FAQs to be prepared and uploaded on the HDBI project webpage*

46. **NSC took note of the progress made under the AWP 2013 and endorsed the AWP 2014 with the recommendations as mentioned above (para 45 points a, c-h, and k).**

47. **Vote of Thanks:** The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks delivered by the Project Manager. She individually thanked all the panelists, moderators and speakers who participated over the course of the two-day Consultation for their specific contributions. She also thanked officials from the Planning Commission, MoSPI and UNDP for their efforts and leadership. She expressed her gratitude to all State representatives and representatives from research institutions for their valuable participation and to the PMU for their support.

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